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The 1993-1994 SLT Season has only one show remaining:

RUMORS by Neil Simon will be performed April 21-May 1, 1994. What do you do when your host has shot himself, his wife is missing, and as the lawyer's cover-up gets more difficult as more guests arrive and nobody can remember who's done what to whom?!? Strap yourself in for a wild, uproarious dinner party as only Mr. Simon can give. The hilarity builds as the couples get more and more crazed trying to make sense of it all!

AUDITIONS for "Rumors" will be held on February 22 and 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the Workshop Theatre. Scripts are available for overnight reading. This cast calls for five adult males and five adult females.

SPRING GARDENING SEMINAR A series of classes on gardening and landscaping will be held in the Sumter Little Theatre on:

Thursday, Feb. 24, 1994

Saturday, Feb. 26, 1994

Sunday, Feb 27, 1994

Come join us! Your seminar fee will go to help the Theatre with whatever they need to bring great entertainment to Sumter.

SUMMER YOUTH THEATRE PROGRAM Directed by former youth theatre students Reid Carpenter, Christy Smith, and Sheryl Howard, classes run on June 27 - July 31, 1994. A play will be produced at the end of the session. Those who have completed grades 5-12 are eligible and students having completed grades 3 and 4 must audition. Classes are \$400 a month and run from 9 am to 5 pm. Applications are available at the Theatre or call 775-2150.

SUMTER LITTLE THEATRE PRESENTS

WHAT LESSON

by AUGUST WILSON

DIRECTED BY KATIE DAMRON

FEBRUARY 10-13 & 15-20
1994

THE PIANO LESSON

BY

AUGUST WILSON

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

The Cast

(in order of appearance)

Doaker Austin D. China
Boy Willie Eric Bultman
Lymon G. Scotty Spence
Berniece Sheila L. Harvin
Maretha Sonya McKnight
Avery Darryl Tyler
Wining Boy Kwame Dawes
Grace RONALDA N. SMITH

PLACE:

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Doaker Charles' House

TIME:

Summer, 1936

SCENE SYNOPSIS:

Act I - Scene 1 - Early Morning
Scene 2 - Evening, three days later

Act II - Scene 1 - The next morning
Scene 2 - Late evening the same day
Scene 3 - Several hours later
Scene 4 - Late the following morning
Scene 5 - Evening the same day

There will be a fifteen minute intermission
following Act I.

- PLEASE -

NO FOOD OR DRINK IN THE THEATRE. The concession area, on the porch, will be open during intermission. NO PHOTOGRAPHS may be taken during the performance.

Cast Notes

Austin D. China . . . Doaker . . . A teacher at Alice Drive Middle, Austin last appeared on our stage five years ago in "A Christmas Carol". The thing that affected him the most about this show was getting to know all the other actors. He thinks people should come see it because of August Wilson's wonderful use of "culture and dialect that are disappearing. Besides, Kwame and Eric are great actors."

Eric Bultman . . . Boy Willie . . . Eric is an SLT veteran, most recently seen onstage in last season's hit comedy "The Foreigner". Active behind the scenes, too, he directed this season's smash "The Nerd". He says that he and his character are completely different, but that he enjoyed the challenge of bringing Boy Willie to life. He believes everyone should see this show because "it has everything. A fantastic story, amazing conflicts, and a ghost." Eric is President of the Sumter Little Theatre Board of Directors.

G. Scotty Spence . . . Lymon . . . When he's not busy writing for his comic book company, Dark Horse Comics, or substitute teaching, Scotty finds time for the theatre. Most notably he was a member of the Sleepy Hollow Players in Tarrytown, New York. Having to portray a naive person is what affected him most about "The Piano Lesson". The character that most resemble him is Boy Willie because "even though he speaks bluntly, loudly, he often speaks the truth." Scotty would like to dedicate his performance to his grandparents.

Sheila L. Harvin . . . Berniece . . . New to SLT, past experience has led Sheila here and we're glad she came! Sheila is employed at the Academic and Career Achievement Partnership Consortium and says that of all the characters in the play, Berniece resembles her the most. In her opinion, everyone should see "The Piano Lesson" in order to understand the history and bonding of the African-American family and tradition.

Sonya McKnight . . . Maretha . . . A student at Sumter High School, Sonya has been a member of the youth theatre program at SLT for three years. She feels that young people should see this show to get a better understanding of how life was like before their time. What she learned from this production "makes me thankful for the people who paved the way for me and other young people today."

Darryl Tyler . . . Avery . . . During the day you can find Darryl working at Duplicating Products and Services, but at night he has been tackling his first theatre role anywhere with the character of Avery. He has been most affected by understanding his character and how to play him. He feels everyone should see the show to "experience how black folks dealt with life, trying to get ahead, and how important God was to them."

Kwame Dawes . . . Wining Boy . . . A professor at USC-Sumter, Kwame was last on the SLT stage in "I'm Not Rappaport". In addition, he claims to have "years and years" of theatre experience. Of all the show's characters, Kwame says Wining Boy most resembles him because he's been through this before and they both have beards. Oh! He can sing, too!

RONALDA N. SMITH . . . Grace . . . When asked about the similarities and differences between herself and her character, RONALDA said, "Uh...let me think about this..." We're still not sure exactly what that means and neither is she! The characters of Boy Willie and Berniece most resemble RONALDA because of his desire for opportunity, change, and challenge and her desire to preserve history. RONALDA was last seen at SLT in "Oliver".

Production Staff

Producers Katie Damron
Booth and Peggy Chilcutt
Director Katie Damron
Stage Manager Ivy Moore
Script Manager Gwendolyn Graham
Set Designer Booth Chilcutt
Master Carpenter Booth Chilcutt
Set Construction Booth Chilcutt,
Rufus McCoy, Tom Prewett,
Paul Jenkins, Corey Lee Archie,
Scotty Scarborough, Kevin Brady,
Sheryl Howard, Nathaniel Rhodes,
Billy McMillan
Scenic Artists Peggy Chilcutt,
Randy Abbott, Booth Chilcutt, Tom Prewett
Lighting Designer Morris Miller
Lighting Technicians Morris Miller, Steve Kiesel,
Jody Osborne, Harvey Rice
Costume Designer Marge Cowles
Costume Committee Marge Cowles, Shannon Flaherty,
Properties Manager Myra Yeatts
Properties Committee Rodney Pitts
Sound Designer David Brown
Sound Technician Rodney Pitts
Backstage Assistant Gwendolyn Graham
Music and Interpretation Kwame Dawes and Cast
Photographer Tom Prewett
Playbill Shannon Mewborn
Publicity Manager Shannon Mewborn
Publicity Committee Scotty Spence,
Jacqueline Howard, RONALDA SMITH
Gwendolyn Graham, Junior Welfare League
Box Office Manager Jeannie Purdy
Box Office Committee Junior Welfare League
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